

Elizabeth Protests and Threatens.

maintain the reformed religion, to rule in accordance with the will of God and the laws of the realm, to repress all oppression and wrong, and to preserve justice and equity to all.

The champions of the queen held, on the other hand, that even if she were guilty of the crimes laid to her charge—and some of them either had little doubt of or admitted the fact—her subjects had no right to refuse her obedience. "Na inferior subject/³ cried the Bishop of Galloway in a sermon in her defence, "hes power to depryve or depose their lauch-full magistrat whatsumevir, albeit thai committ whordome, murther, incest, or any uther cry me." The bishop had nevertheless no doubt as to her guilt.

This was also the view of Elizabeth. They had no warrant, she directed Throckmorton to tell the lords, by God's or man's law to be as superiors, judges, or vindicators over their prince, whatever disorders they might gather against her. What warrant had they in Scripture, as subjects, to depose their prince? Did not St Paul command the Romans to obey superior powers, although their rulers were infidels ? Or what law did they find in any Christian monarchy that subjects might arrest their princes, detain them captive, and judge them ? Nor could they find such in the whole civil law. Even if history furnished any such examples, they were the acts of rebels. Throckmorton admonished in vain. So little did these fierce "rebel" Scots esteem the inviolability of the royal person and prerogative that if Mary had not signed her own abdication, and Elizabeth had carried out her threat of forcible interference, her head would have rolled on the block twenty years before the tragic scene at Fotheringay.

A fortnight after her abdication the confederates pro claimed her son as James VI. (29th July 1567). The govern ment passed into the hands of Moray, who had retired to France, as regent, and Protestantism was at last established in the most explicit terms by Parliament as the national creed of Scotland. But Mary was not the woman to submit thus tamely to the miserable fate she had brought upon her self. On the 2nd May 1568 she made her escape from Loch-

leven, in the desperate hope of regaining her
forfeited crown.
Already during the wild night gallop to Hamilton
Palace, her
TOL. II. 2 G